

**EAP 223 Academic Reading – Outside Reader: *Things Fall Apart***  
**PREREADING STUDY GUIDE – Chapters 11-13**

Study Questions for Chapters 11-13 Use these questions to guide you through reading this section. Document your answers on this sheet to help you study for the quiz.

1. What did Chielo want with Ezinma?

Chielo wanted to take Ezinma to see Agbala.

2. What did Ekwefi do?

She followed Chielo and Ezinma to the cave of Agbala.

3. What did Okonkwo do when Chielo took Ezinma?

He followed her, too, with his machete.

4. What was the purpose of the *uri* ceremony?

The family of the suitor was bringing palm-wine to Obierika and his extensive group of kinsmen.

5. What was the significance in the amount of wine the family brought?

They were thought to be behaving like men if they brought a generous amount.

6. What happened at the end of the ceremony?

The bride-to-be went to live with her suitor's family for seven market weeks.

7. Describe Ezeudu's funeral.

He was the clan elder, so there was a great ceremony. There was a lot of shouting, drum beating, and firing of guns.

8. How did the author describe a man's life?

A man's life was a series of transition rites which brought him closer to death and his ancestors.

9. What happened during the frenzy?

Okonkwo accidentally shot a boy.

10. What was the result of Okonkwo's action?

He and his family were forced to leave the clan for seven years. The men from Ezeudu's quarter demolished Okonkwo's houses and barn, and killed his animals.

11. What was the reason for the clan's actions against Okonkwo?

They were cleansing the land which Okonkwo had polluted. It was not revenge.

12. What did Obierika think about after this calamity, and what was his conclusion?

He wondered why a man should suffer because of an inadvertent mistake. He also wondered why he had to throw away his wife's twins when they were born. He concluded that the clan had to punish offenses so that the Earth would not loose her wrath on all the land, instead of just on the offender.

## Vocabulary for Chapters 11-13

### Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues.

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Use any clues you can find in the sentence, combined with your prior knowledge, to understand the italicized words.

1. The night was *impenetrably* dark.
2. Nwayieke lived four compounds away, and she was *notorious* for her late cooking.
3. Nothing that happened in the world of animals ever escaped his notice; he was full of *cunning*.
4. His speech was so *eloquent* that all the birds were glad they brought him, and nodded their heads in approval of all he said.
5. After kola nuts had been presented and eaten, the people of the sky set before their guests the most *delectable* dishes Tortoise had ever seen or dreamed of.
6. But Ekwefi did not hear these *consolations*.
7. She hit her left foot against an outcropped root, and terror seized her. It was an ill *omen*.
8. Fireflies went about with their tiny green lamps, which only made the darkness more *profound*.
9. She remembered that night, long ago, when she had seen *Ogbu-agali-odu*, one of those evil *essences* loose upon the world by the potent “medicines” which the tribe had made....
10. The priestess’s voice came at longer *intervals* now, but its vigor was undiminished.
11. Ekwefi could now *discern* the figure of the priestess and her burden.
12. It was only on his fourth trip that he had found Ekwefi, and by then he had become *gravely* worried.

### Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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|-----------------------|---|
| __A__ 1. impenetrably | A. not able to be entered or pierced    |
| __D__ 2. notorious    | B. delightful; delicious                |
| __G__ 3. cunning      | C. spiritual or incorporeal entities    |
| __J__ 4. eloquent     | D. known widely and usually unfavorably |
| __B__ 5. delectable   | E. words of comfort                     |
| __E__ 6. consolations | F. time between two specified instants  |
| __H__ 7. omen         | G. skill in deception                   |
| __K__ 8. profound     | H. prophetic sign                       |
| __C__ 9. essences     | I. distinguish; perceive                |
| __F__ 10. intervals   | J. expressive; persuasive               |
| __I__ 11. discern     | K. deep; complete                       |
| __L__ 12. gravely     | L. serious                              |